(b) The details are as under:—

SI. No.	Session	No. of Participants	No. of SOST participants	Percentage of SOST Participants
1.	1996	36	—	—
2.	1997	40	1	2.5
3.	1998	38	—	—
4.	1999	45	—	—
5.	2000	33	—	—

(c) No application was received from SOST candidates during the years 1996, 1998, 1999 and 2000. Only one application falling under this category was received in 1997.

Operation of Vacancy based Rosters

1566. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court in the case of R.K. Sabharwal Vs State of Punjab has held that 'Vacancy Based Rosters' can operate only till such time the representation of persons belonging to reserved categories reaches the prescribed percentage of reservation; and

(b) if so, the services i.e. Class, I II, III and IV, under the Ministry of Commerce where the representation of persons belonging to SOST categories has reached the prescribed percentage of reservation and because of which 'Post Based Rosters' have been introduced in place of 'Vacancy Based Rosters'?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MAR AN): (a) and (b) It may be mentioned that as per the Supreme Court's Judgement in the R.K. Sabharwal case, reservation has to be with reference to posts and not vacancies. In terms of Office Memorandum dated 2nd July, 1997 from

Department of Personnel & Training, 'Post Based Roster' have been introduced in place of "Vacancy Based Rosters' in respect of services i.e. Class I, II, III and IV under the Ministry of Commerce.

Import of Milk

† 1567. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that milk is being imported in the country from the foreign countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the quantity of milk imported during the last three years, togetherwith the country-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MAR AN): (a) and (b) Import of milk and milk powder, as classified under Exim code headings 04.01, 04.02 and 04.03, has been free since 1995 except products classified under Exim code Nos. 04021003, 04021009 and 04022100. During the year 1999-2000, there was a surge in the import of this commodity due to fall in international prices of Skimmed Milk Powder.

(c) Data showing the quantity of milk imported and the country-wise details during the last three years is as shown in the statement on the reverse:

STATEMENT

Countries	Import of Milk	Qty. in Tons	
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000(P)
1. Denmark	11	15	90
2. New Zealand	16	—	510
3. Singapore	172	86	207
4. -Belgium	410	42	1840
5. Australia	16	457	491
6. Canada	—	384	250

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.